Message Text

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ORIGIN TRSE-00

INFO OCT-01 EA-06 ISO-00 AGR-05 CEA-01 CIAE-00 COME-00

DODE-00 EB-07 FRB-03 H-02 INR-07 INT-05 L-02 LAB-04

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 AID-05 CIEP-01 SS-15 STR-04

TAR-01 USIA-06 PRS-01 SP-02 OMB-01 FEA-01 /086 R

DRAFTED BY TREASURY: JWALLAR: CLJ APPROVED BY EBOT/STA: WCLARK, JR. EB/OT/STA: EGCONSTABLE EA/PHL: RWILLNER

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R 202243Z MAY 75 FM SECSTATE WASHDC TO AMEMBASSY MANILA

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E.O. 11652:N/A

TAGS:ETRD, RP

SUBJECT: COUNTERVAILING DUTIES--CERAMIC WALL TILE

REF: STATE 78024

- 1. WE ARE INFORMED THAT SOME QUESTION HAS ARISEN REGARDING CONDUCT OF COUNTERVAILING DUTY INVESTIGATION ON PHILIPPINE CERAMIC WALL TILE. FOLLOWING PROCEDURES PREVIOUSLY WORKED OUT FOR CONDUCT OF SUCH INVESTIGATIONS ARE FORWARDED FOR INFORMATION AND GUIDANCE OF EMBASSY. BEGIN QUOTE:
- A) IT IS THE RESPONSIBILITY OF THE CUSTOMS REPRESENTATIVE TO CONDUCT COUNTERVAILING DUTY INVESTIGATIONS AND DEVELOP ALL THE RELEVANT FACTUAL INFORMATION WHICH IS NECESSARY FOR A DETERMINATION AS TO THE EXISTENCE OF BOUNTIES OR GRANTS, LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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IF ANY, AND THEIR AMOUNTS.

- B) EMBASSIES ARE REQUESTED NOT TO INITIATE CONTACTS WITH GOVERNMENT OR INDUSTRY OFFICIALS CONCERNING AN INDIVIDUAL COUNTERVAILING DUTY INVESTIGATION WITHOUT FIRST CONSULTING THE CUSTOMS REPRESENTATIVE.
- C) IF IT SHOULD DEVELOP THAT A HOST GOVERNMENT OR FIRM CALLS ON EMBASSY, EMBOFFS MAY RESPOND AS THOUGHT APPROPRI-

ATE BUT ARE REQUESTED TO FOCUS ON BROAD ISSUES RELATED TO COUNTERVAILING DUTY STATUTE AND AVOID DISCUSSION OF SPECIFICS ON INDIVIDUAL INVESTIGATIONS IN PROCESS. TO ENSURE MAXIMUM COORDINATION, REPORTS ON SUCH CONVERSATIONS SHOULD BE FORWARDED BOTH TO WASHINGTON AND THE CUSTOMS REPRESENTATIVE.

- D) AS AN OPERATING RULE, ALL INQUIRIES WITH RESPECT TO COUNTERVAILING DUTY CASES SHOULD BE CONDUCTED THROUGH HOST GOVERNMENTS AND NO CONTACTS SHOULD BE MADE WITH FIRMS WITHOUT FIRST OBTAINING THEIR ACQUIESCENCE THROUGH THE HOST GOVERNMENT. WHERE THERE IS AN INDICATION THAT HOST GOVERNMENTS OR INDIVIDUAL FIRMS MAY NOT COOPERATE, THIS SHOULD BE REPORTED IMMEDIATELY TO WASHINGTON BY EMBASSY OR CUSTOMS REPRESENTATIVE AS APPROPRIATE. CUSTOMS REPRESENTATIVES ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR DETERMINING THE APPROPRIATE COMPANY OFFICERS WHO SHOULD BE VISITED AND ARRANGING DIRECTLY WITH THEM MUTUALLY CONVENIENT MEETING TIMES.
- E) CUSTOMS REPRESENTATIVES ARE REQUESTED TO KEEP POSTS FULLY INFORMED OF DEVELOPMENTS IN INDIVIDUAL CASES, AND INFORM EMBASSIES BEFORE INITIATING CONTACTS WITH HOST GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS.
- 2. IF THESE PROCEDURES RAISE DIFFICULTIES FOR INDIVIDUAL POSTS IN CERTAIN CASES, THEY ARE REQUESTED TO INFORM WASHINGTON BEFORE DEPARTING FROM THEM SO THAT ALTERNATIVE PROCEDURES CAN BE CONSIDERED. END QUOTE.
- 3. THE EARLIEST POSSIBLE RESPONSE TO THE CUSTOMS QUESTIONNAIRE IS DESIRABLE AS IT WOULD ALLOW TREASURY TO LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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ANALYZE DATA, AND LEAVE TIME FOR CUSTOMS TO REQUEST ANY ADDITIONAL DATA OR CLARIFICATION FROM GOP SO THAT ESTIMATES OF ANY POSSIBLE BOUNTIES OR GRANTS WOULD BE ACCURATE. UNDER COUNTERVAILING DUTY LAW TREASURY IS REQUIRED TO PROCEED ON BASIS OF "BEST INFORMATION AVAILABLE". IN THE ABSENCE OF ADEQUATE DATA OBTAINED IN CUSTOMS INVESTIGATION, "BEST INFORMATION" WOULD BE THAT SUPPLIED BY U.S. PETITIONER WHICH HAS BEEN DESIGNED TO SUPPORT FINDING OF

MAXIMUM BOUNTY OR GRANT. ACCORDINGLY, EMBASSY SHOULD SEEK GOP REPLY BY JUNE 15, IF POSSIBLE. (ADB BRIEFING PAPERS POUCHED TO EMBASSY IN APRIL CONTAIN FURTHER BACKGROUND.) INGERSOLL

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